

Town of Vernon  
Vernon Arts Commission  
Minutes  
Monday, 11/02/15  
Vernon Community Arts Center

**Call to Order**

7:07 pm – Regular Meeting of the Vernon Arts Commission called to order by Sandra Justin, Chair.

**Attendance**

Sandra Justin, Commissioner / Chair  
Lisa Ouellette, Commissioner / Treasurer / Acting Secretary  
Vincent Bologna, Commissioner  
Roberta Orne, Commissioner (late arrival)  
John Kopec, Liaison Vernon Town Council  
McLean Oakeson, Guest (Vernon Chorale)  
Joan Sonnanburg, Guest (Arts Center East)

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VERNON COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER  
15 DEC -4 AM 9:58

**Business**

➤ **Minutes from September 14, 2015 and October 5, 2015**

Review minutes from 09/14/15 and 10/05/15.

- CORRECTION 10/05/15 minutes = Correspondence.  
The note thanking the VAC for their support was actually received in May 2015, with 4 tickets to the June 6, 2015 concert.
- Approval 09/14/15 minutes  
Motion (Justin) / Second (Bologna). Vote = Approved unanimously.
- Approval 10/05/15 minutes = Motion (Justin) / Second (Ouellette).  
Vote = Approved 2 yes (Justin / Ouellette) / 1 abstained (Bologna)

➤ **Treasurer's Report**

- **Town of Vernon Account** = \$6,125 (Total Beginning Budget for FY16 = \$6,840)  
Remaining funds  
Performers = \$5,425  
Advertising = \$700
- **Friends of the VAC Account** = \$2,558.08
- Approval of Treasurer's Report = Motion (Bologna) / Second (Justin).  
Vote = Approved unanimously

➤ **Correspondence** No new correspondence to share.

➤ **Old Business**

- **Funding Requests – Introduced and previously discussed at prior meetings.**
  - No new Funding Requests.
- **Committee Reports**
  - **Programming and Outreach to Community** = Rails to Trails Mural project dedication will be postponed from the original October date. Instead the dedication will take place on Rails to Trails Day 06/04/16. The Friends of the Vernon Arts Commission will fund refreshments and assist with this event.
  - **Commissioners & Associate Commissioners – Status of Membership & Recruitment.**  
Due to her resignation as a commissioner, Irma Carter has been reminded to return her Vernon Arts Commission pin so that new commissioners may have the pin.

○ **Friends of VAC Activity**

➤ **Membership**

Membership dues having been slowly arriving in Lisa Ouellette's mail.

To do in the future:

- Thank you reception at Arts Center East (target – Spring event). Sandra Justin will coordinate.
- Thank you post cards, which will include the invitation to the Spring Thank You event. Lisa Ouellette will design though Vista Print.

➤ **Funding Requests and Approvals** = Nothing to report / No actions needed.

➤ **Scholarships** = Will bring up and discuss at a future meeting.

➤ **Other activity / concerns / issues** = None.

➤ **Consideration of Additional Agenda Items** *(to be added under New Business)*

1. Rockville High School request for funding.
2. Vernon Center Middle School request for funding.

Unanimously approved to add these items to New Business.

➤ **New Business**

**“Block Grant” = Arts Center East (formerly Vernon Community Arts Center)**

Discussed the idea of a “block grant” to Arts Center East to fund programming. Criteria = program using funds from the town of Vernon MUST take place in Vernon. Admission may be charged. Proper documentation (invoice / W-9) will need to be submitted to Lisa Ouellette to receive the funding. All in attendance were in support of this idea.

Motion (Ouellette) to allocate \$2,000 to Arts Center East to support programming at the Center or at another venue within the town of Vernon. Funds to be used by the end of the current fiscal year (06/30/16). Second (Bologna). Vote = Approved unanimously. Motion passed.

**Vernon Chorale**

McLean Oakeson, President of the Vernon Chorale, shared a summary of the programming for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for the Vernon Chorale, which will involve the Rockville High School chorus during one of the spring concerts. The Vernon Chorale's funding request (\$2,000) was discussed. Motion (Justin) to fund the Vernon Chorale as follows:

- Town of Vernon = \$1,000 Performers / \$250 Advertising
- Friends of the Vernon Arts Commission = \$500 Performers / \$250 Advertising

Second (Ouellette). Vote = 3 yes / 1 abstain (Bologna). Motion passed.

**Rockville High School**

Art teacher, Patricia Bengston, requested funding for an artist-in-residence program. Her request lacked details. Lisa Ouellette will reach out to Patricia Bengston to get more details. The VAC will revisit this request during the 12/07/15 meeting.

**Vernon Center Middle School = Courtyard Mural Project Part II**

Art teacher, Sherri Nevins, requested funding to complete the VCMS Courtyard Mural that was started last year. Jeff Slobodien will once again work with the middle school students throughout the 2015-16 school year. Motion (Justin) to allocate \$500 from the town of Vernon account (performers budget line) to compensate Jeff Slobodien for his work with the VCMS students to create / complete the mural. Second (Bologna). Vote = Approved unanimously. Motion passed.

Supplies will be funded with Friends of the Vernon Arts Commission account.

**Next Meeting**

➤ **Monday 12/07/15 at 7 pm – Arts Center East (Vernon Community Arts Center)**

**Adjournment**

8:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Ouellette, VAC Commissioner / Treasurer / Acting Secretary